

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3365

INFO AEC GERMANTOWN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG IAEA UR

SUBJECT: 17TH IAEA GENERAL CONFERENCE: SOVIET VIEWS ON RULES
OF PROCEDURE

REF: IAEA VIENNA 7388

SUMMARY: SOVIET MISSION IS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS ON REVISION
OF GENERAL CONFERENCE RULES, AND APPARENTLY DOUBTS FONOFF WILL
BE ABLE DEVELOP INSTRUCTIONS IN TIME FOR GC OPENING SEPT 18.
SOVIETS ARE THEREFORE STALLING FOR TIME BY PROPOSING REVISION
BE DELAYED UNTIL 1974 GC.

1. AT END OF MEETING OF 14 MISSION REPORTED REFTEL, SOVIET
REPRESENTATIVE (PALENYKH), WHO HAD BEEN SILENT THROUGHOUT,
SAID DISCUSSION HAD BEEN USEFUL. HE NOTICED THAT NO ONE HAD QUES-
TIONED THOSE AMENDMENTS TO GC RULES WHICH WERE ESSENTIAL AS RESULT
OF AMENDMENT OF IAEA STATUTE. THIS INDICATED TO HIM THAT MISSIONS
HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THOSE AMENDMENTS. ON OTHER HAND, THERE HAD
BEEN MANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES IN RULES,
WHICH PERHAPS INDICATED THOSE CHANGES WERE NOT RIPE. MANY
DELEGATES HAD REFERRED TO CERTAIN OF THE EXISTING RULES AS BEING
NOT BAD, AND PERHAPS BETTER THAN THOSE DESIGNED TO REPLACE THEM.

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PRELIMINARY OPINION OF SOCIET MISSION WAS THAT GC SHOULD ADOPT

CHANGES REQUIRED BY AMENDMENT OF STATUTE, BUT LIMIT ITSELF TO STUDYING THOROUGHLY THE OTHER PROPOSED CHANGES. IT WAS PREMATURE TO SPEAK OF A CONSENSUS. MATTER WAS NOT SIMPLE AND SHOULD BE APPROACHED VERY CAREFULLY.

2. US RESREP AGREED CHANGES IN GC RULES WERE IMPORTANT AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CAREFULLY. HE HOPED THAT ENTIRE DISCUSSION HAD BEEN A REFERENDUM AND NO MISSION COMMITTED BY ANY TENTATIVE AGREEMENTS REACHED. INDIAN RESREP, WHO WILL CHAIR GC COMMITTEE THAT WILL CONSIDER AMENDMENT OF RULES, ASKED ASSISTANCE OF ALL PRESENT IN CARRYING OUT HIS TASK AND GETTING JOB DONE DURING THE GC - AN OBVIOUS REPLY TO SOVIET PLEA FOR DELAY. MEETING THEN ADJOURNED.

3. COMMENT: DESPITE FACT RULES REVISION HAS BEEN UNDER DISCUSSION SINCE FEBRUARY, WHEN DG WROTE ALL MEMBERS OF IAEA BOARD, AND FACT THAT SOVIETS HAVE BEEN INCLUDED IN ALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS AND BRIEFED IN OUR BILATERAL MEETINGS WITH THEM, SOVIET MISSION HAS APPARENTLY DONE LITTLE OR NO REPORTING TO MOSCOW, PENDING PUBLICATION OF FORMAL SECRETARIAT DOCUMENT WITH EXACT TEXT OF PROPOSED CHANGES. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS WAS DELAYED UNTIL AUGUST 10 BY INTERNAL SECRETARIAT FEUDING, AND WHEN IT APPEARED WAS IN MOST CONFUSING FORM; COMPLETE REPRINTING OF ENTIRE SET OF RULES, FROM BEGINNING TO END, WITH NO IDENTIFICATION OF AMENDED PASSAGES. TO COMPOUND PROBLEM, SECRETARIAT TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE MINOR IMPROVEMENTS IN LANGUAGE AND ORGANIZATION OF RULES, WHICH, WHILE UNOBJECTIONABLE, CAME AS NEW DEVELOPMENTS TO EVERYBODY INCLUDING SOVIETS. UPSHOT WAS THAT, IN SOVIET MISSION'S WORDS TO US PRIVATELY, THEY WERE UNABLE TO FORWARD DOCUMENT TO MOSCOW WITH FAVORABLE RECOMMENDATION, BUT SIMPLY FORWARDED IT WITHOUT RECOMMENDATION FOR STUDY BY LEGAL DIVISION OF FONOFF. THEY TELL US THEY HAVE RECEIVED NO INSTRUCTIONS AND DOUBT WHETHER STUDY CAN BE COMPLETED IN TIME FOR ACTION AT THIS GC.

4. WHILE WE SHARE SOVIET IRRITATION AT SECRETARIAT INEPTNESS IN HANDLING THIS SUBJECT, WE CONTINUE BELIEVE, AS STATED REFTEL, THAT PROPOSED REVISION WILL GREATLY IMPROVE RULES AND OPERATION OF GC, AND IF PRESENT STEAM BEHIND DRIVE FOR REFORM IS LOST, AS GOOD AS A SET OF AMENDMENTS MAY NOT BE POSSIBLE IN 1974, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IF INDEED ANY AMENDMENT AT ALL WERE POSSIBLE AT THAT TIME. WE WILL DO OUR BEST TO SOOTHE SOVIET FEELINGS AND PERSUADE THEM THAT SECRETARIAT'S DOCUMENT CONTAINS NO SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES FROM FEBRUARY PROPOSALS BEYOND THOSE THEY THEMSELVES HAVE SUGGESTED. PORTER

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